



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Dallas Regional Office of Public Affairs
4500 S. Lancaster Rd.
Dallas, TX 75216

Media Advisory

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ozzie Garza, Regional Director
(214) 767-9270 (phone)
(214) 857-0111 (fax)
e-mail: ozzie.garza@mail.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2003

On Site Contacts: Ozzie Garza
(214) 505-4315

U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary to Visit Phoenix

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Anthony J. Principi, a member of President Bush's cabinet, will be in Phoenix Saturday, March 1, to take part in the Voices Take Flight awards dinner.

The Secretary will be available to the media at 3:15 p.m. in the Ritz Carlton's Pavilion II room.

With an annual budget of \$45 billion, VA provides benefits and services to more than 25 million veterans at hundreds of VA medical centers, clinics, benefits offices, and national cemeteries throughout the country. Arizona is home to more than 470,000 veterans, and in 2002 VA spent an estimated \$900 million in the state.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS **Saturday, March 1, 2003**

- 3:15 p.m.** Media Availability with VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi
Address Ritz Carlton Hotel Pavilion II room
2401 Camelback Road
Phoenix, Arizona
- 4:00 p.m.** Voices Take Flight program begins